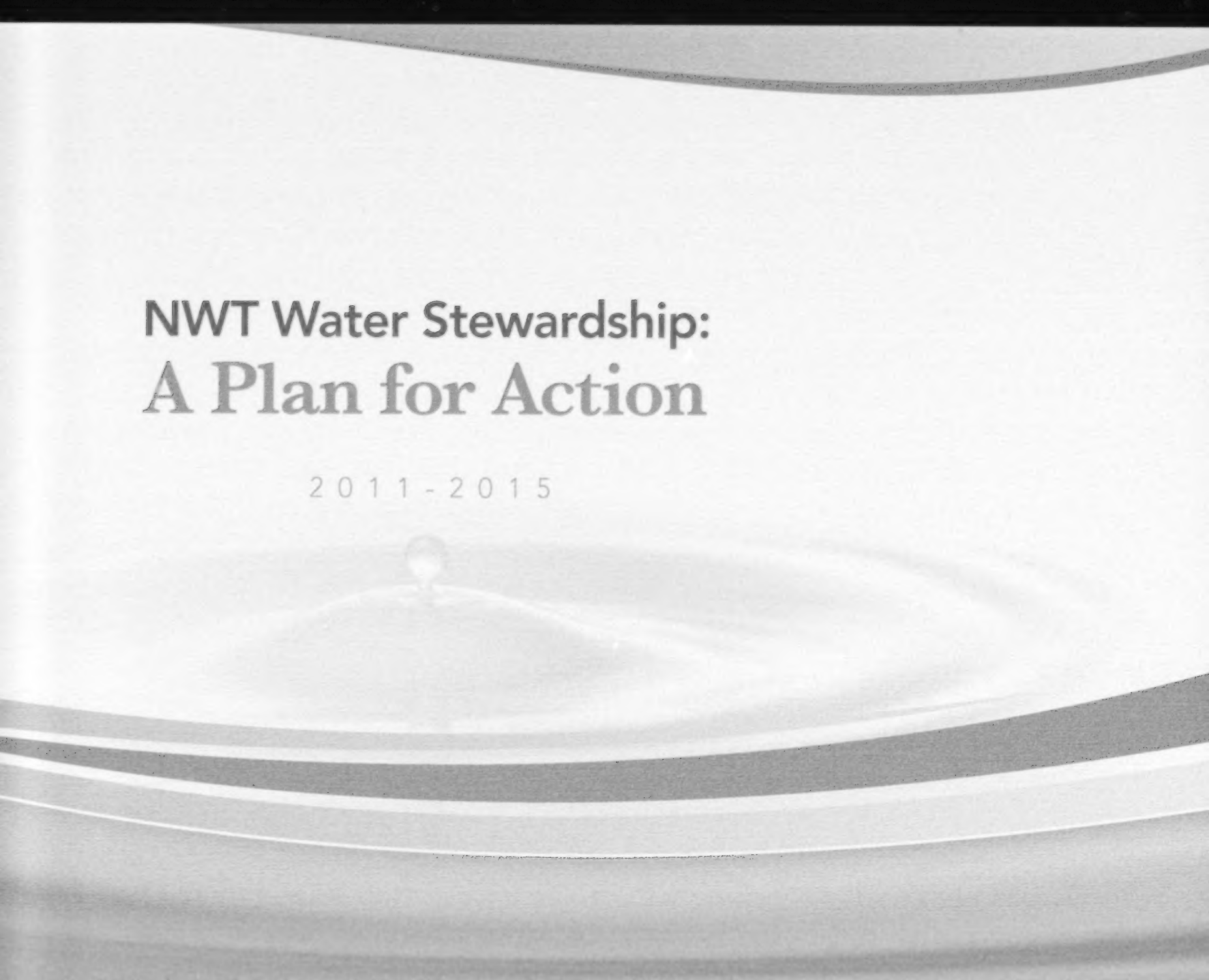
NWT Water Stewardship:
A Plan for Action

2011-2015



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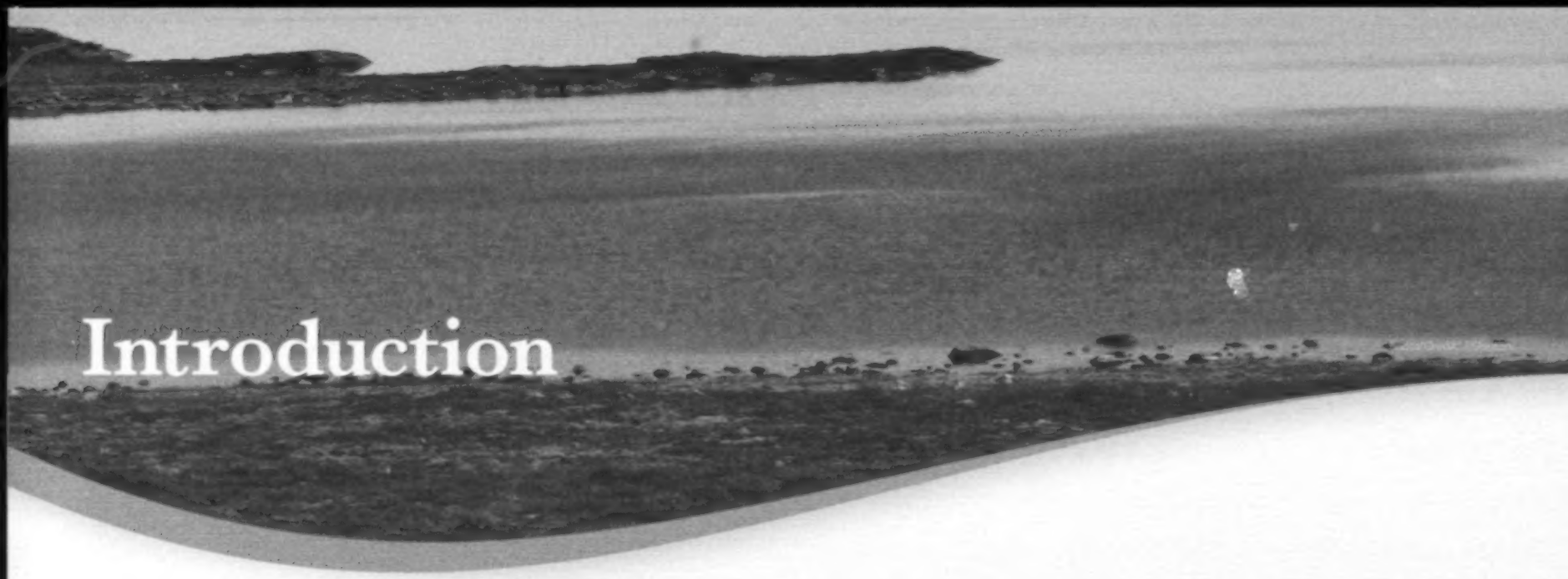


Introduction

This document, ***NWT Water Stewardship: A Plan for Action*** (Action Plan), describes action items that put into motion the vision of the *Northern Voices, Northern Waters: NWT Water Stewardship Strategy* (the Strategy) developed by water partners in the NWT. The Action Plan, which lays out a partnership approach to improve and enhance water stewardship at all levels, designates lead water partners and deliverable dates for each action item.

The Action Plan is a living document and is subject to ongoing reviews and audits to ensure its implementation continues to advance the intent of the Strategy. Annual status updates will be published to track and report on progress. Subsequent Action Plans will outline activities beyond 2015.

Background

In June 2008, the Government of the Northwest Territories (GNWT), represented by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (ENR), and the Government of Canada, represented by Indian and Northern Affairs Canada (INAC), released the discussion paper *Towards an NWT Water Resources Management Strategy for the Northwest Territories*. Under the guidance of an Aboriginal Steering Committee, ENR and INAC sought feedback on the discussion paper from water partners throughout the NWT. Input was reviewed and workshops held, resulting in a draft Water Stewardship Strategy in November 2009. Further workshops and dialogue with NWT water partners, as well as national and international water policy innovators, led to the final *Northern Voices, Northern Waters: NWT Water Stewardship Strategy* (the Strategy) released by the Ministers of ENR and INAC in May 2010.

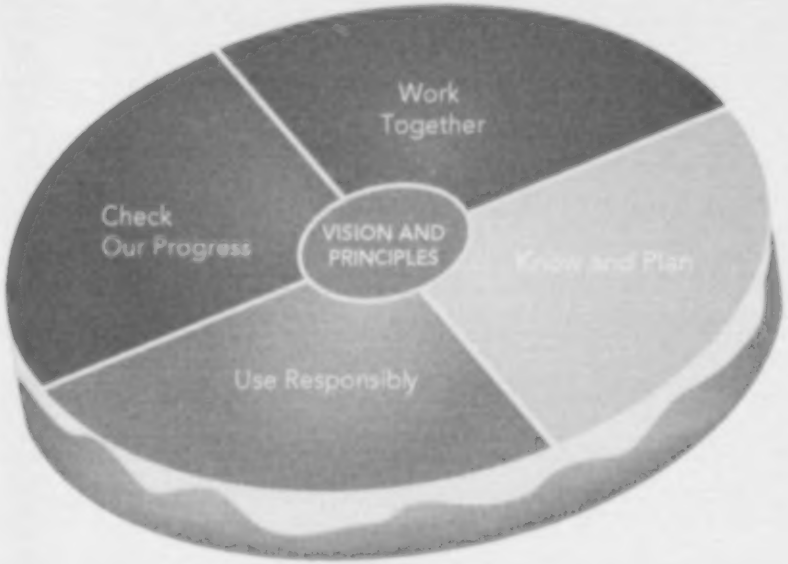
The Strategy states a vision for water stewardship in the NWT: *"The waters of the Northwest Territories will remain clean, abundant and productive for all time."* This vision reflects and advances the deep fundamental relationship NWT residents have with water by stressing an ecosystem-based approach, which honours traditional northern values and beliefs in protecting a vital natural resource. It encourages all water partners to work together to share ideas and knowledge (traditional, local and western scientific) in order to make sound decisions that promote responsible water use in economic and community development.

New water stewardship partners are welcome and the strengthening of existing partnership is encouraged. Ongoing and clear communication must occur to ensure all water partners participate fully in their respective roles, responsibilities and accountabilities. Engaging Aboriginal governments, community governments and other organizations is critical for the successful implementation of the Strategy.

Action Plan Overview

The Strategy describes broad actions necessary to achieve the vision, goals and objectives for water stewardship in the NWT. The Action Plan is based on these broad actions, further expanded from the "Keys to Success" in the Strategy. ENR, INAC and the water partners reviewed these broad actions in detail. In developing the Action Plan, the results of this review were considered by the Aboriginal Steering Committee (ASC), ENR and INAC working group.

Action items fall within the four components of water stewardship in the NWT: Work Together; Know and Plan; Use Responsibly; and Check Our Progress. Each component requires concentrated effort to ensure the actions taken are guided by the Strategy vision, goals and guiding principles. These four components are described below.



NWT Water Stewardship drum diagram illustrates the four components of water stewardship in the NWT.

Work Together

Actions ensure a cooperative environment to support water managers and water partners in sharing information, building capacity and working together.

Know and Plan

Actions ensure the implementation of multi-disciplinary aquatic monitoring and research programs. These programs consider traditional, local and western scientific knowledge and use of this information in the planning of water stewardship activities.

Use Responsibly

Actions ensure decision-makers have the tools necessary to make well-reasoned decisions. These tools should work well together and be easy to use in a consistent manner.

Check Our Progress

Actions ensure progress is made in achieving the vision. This includes measuring and reporting progress. Reporting results of, and responses to, audits and reviews must be transparent.

Keys to Success, Timeframes, Lead Agencies, Partners and Action Items

The Action Plan highlights actions for each component and its associated Keys to Success. Estimated deliverable dates, lead agency(s) and other partners are also included.

1. Work Together

Actions ensure all water partners have the information and resources needed to collaboratively achieve the vision and goals of the Strategy and to effectively integrate the vision and objectives of the Strategy with other resource planning and management processes in the NWT.

In order to Work Together, work falls into four main areas:

- Partnerships
- Information Management
- Communication and Engagement
- Transboundary Discussions, Agreements and Obligations

1.1 Work Together – Partnerships

Partnerships are essential for water stewardship in the NWT. No one agency is entirely responsible for water stewardship and no agency or individual is without responsibility for it. Partnerships can take many forms, including partnerships among decision-makers, funding partnerships, networking partnerships and data sharing partnerships.

Key to Success 1.1 A	**Integrate the NWT Water Stewardship Strategy with current territorial watershed and natural resource planning and management frameworks, such as the Environmental Stewardship Framework and regional land use plans.**	
	Lead Agency: ENR/INAC Partners: All Water Partners	
	Action Items	**Deliverable Date**
1	Water partners identify and share existing policies, strategies, frameworks, procedures, regional land use plans, interim measures agreements and other agreements that are related to the Strategy.	April 2012
2	Evaluate existing policies, strategies, frameworks, procedures, etc. for consistency with the Strategy and identify gaps or conflicts.	April 2013
3	Revise existing and future policies, strategies, frameworks, procedures, etc. to address gaps.	September 2013 and On-going
4	Engage public in the Strategy and Action Plan review processes.	On-going

Key to Success 1.1 B	**Identify and facilitate the development of partnerships that support the NWT Water Stewardship Strategy, including establishing criteria for effective partnerships.**	
	Lead Agency: ENR/INAC Partners: All Water Partners	
	Action Items	**Deliverable Date**
1	Identify current and possible key partners and their resource capacity for potential contributions.	September 2011 and On-going
2	Strengthen ongoing communication between all partners.	On-going
3	Publish routine updates of water partners and their activities.	April 2012
Key to Success 1.1 C	**Establish an extended network of partners prepared to commit resources to research and monitoring priorities.**	
	Lead Agency: ENR Partners: All Water Partners	
	Action Items	**Deliverable Date**
1	Identify an extended network of partners who could fund research and monitoring priorities and determine their resource capacity.	September 2011 and On-going
2	Document intent; share with partnership network.	April 2012
3	Strengthen communication between all partners.	On-going
4	Publish routine updates of partners and their activities.	September 2012 and Annually
Key to Success 1.1 D	**Develop clear descriptions of the roles and responsibilities of the respective water partners.**	
	Lead Agency: ENR Partners: All Water Partners	
	Action Items	**Deliverable Date**
1	Identify current roles and responsibilities of water partners.	September 2011
2	Create and routinely update responsibility matrix.	April 2012 and Annually
3	Communicate roles and responsibilities of water partners to all interested parties.	September 2012 and Annually

Key to Success 1.1 E	**Develop collaborative processes among water partners to identify and resolve issues impeding coordinated watershed data collection, data sharing and management decisions.**	
	Lead Agency: ENR/INAC Partners: All Water Partners	
	Action Items	**Deliverable Date**
1	Identify information management partners and/or programs.	April 2012
2	Define degree of involvement, commitment and capacity for each water partner.	April 2012
3	Undertake a gap analysis of issues impeding coordinated watershed data collection, sharing and management decisions undertaken by partners.	April 2013
4	Strengthen collaboration and coordination among water partners through routine communication.	On-going
5	Communicate results to all interested parties.	On-going
Key to Success 1.1 F	**Routinely assess partners' capacity to partner actively in initiatives and address shortfalls.**	
	Lead Agency: ENR/INAC Partners: Regulatory Boards, NWT Communities, Other Federal Departments, GNWT	
	Action Items	**Deliverable Date**
1	Identify challenges for water partner involvement in water stewardship activities.	April 2012 and Annually
2	Determine water partner capacity and shortfalls through routine dialogue and formal or informal reviews.	April 2012 and Annually
3	Develop and implement capacity building initiative through collaborative partnerships.	Annually
Key to Success 1.1 G	**Develop community capacity to strengthen community involvement in water stewardship activities, including education, training, and research and monitoring programs.**	
	Lead Agency: ENR/INAC Partners: All Water Partners	
	Action Items	**Deliverable Date**
1	Communities assess their desired roles and responsibilities in terms of water stewardship.	April 2012
2	Work with self-identified communities to undertake a needs assessment relative to their desired roles and responsibilities.	September 2012
3	Use workshops and other means to share experiences and adopt best practises through community engagement, involving youth and elders.	September 2012 and On-going
4	For each community, develop and strengthen relationships with water partners to enhance capacity.	April 2013 and On-going

Key to Success 1.1 H	**Collaboratively develop and implement an approach that provides for effective use of traditional, local and western scientific knowledge in water stewardship decision-making processes.**	
	Lead Agency: ENR/INAC Partners: Environment Canada, Fisheries and Oceans Canada, Regulatory Boards, Aboriginal Governments	
	Action Items	**Deliverable Date**
1	With collaborative input from traditional, local and western scientific knowledge holders, develop an effective approach to inform water stewardship decisions.	April 2012
2	Design effective tools to improve decision-making.	April 2013

1.2 Work Together – Information Management

Water stewardship activities, including decision-making at all levels, must be supported by accurate and current data. This can be achieved by enhancing gathering, storing, processing and delivering geographic information, or spatially referenced information and developing standard protocols for data collection, data sharing and data exchange. Traditional knowledge is an inherent part of the Strategy and Action Plan. Enhancing and developing traditional knowledge protocols ensures the collection and application of traditional knowledge is conducted in a respectful manner.

Key to Success 1.2 A	**Undertake a review of existing geomatics capacity and capabilities in the NWT with respect to the collection and analysis of water related imagery, data and information and recommend means to improve these.**	
	Lead Agency: ENR Partners: INAC, Regulatory Boards, Other Federal Departments, NWT Communities	
	Action Items	**Deliverable Date**
1	Undertake a review of existing water-related geomatics and/or remote sensing needs and potential uses in water stewardship action items.	April 2012
2	Share information about existing water-related geomatics and/or remote sensing uses to interested water partners.	April 2012
3	Identify opportunities to collaborate among water partners.	On-going
Key to Success 1.2 B	**Assess the feasibility of filling identified gaps in water quality and quantity monitoring and research through use of alternative technological tools (e.g., remote sensing, aerial photography).**	
	Lead Agency: ENR Partners: INAC, Regulatory Boards, Other Federal Departments, NWT Communities	
	Action Items	**Deliverable Date**
1	Identify alternative technological tools that could be used to fill identified gaps in water quality and quantity monitoring and research.	April 2012
2	Assess the potential to expand or improve current geomatics applications.	December 2012
3	Determine the feasibility of using any of these tools in the NWT within current monitoring and research programs.	April 2013

Key to Success 1.2 C	**Improve data management for water-related monitoring programs, including Surveillance Network Programs.**	
	Lead Agency: INAC/Regulatory Boards Partners: Environment Canada, Fisheries and Oceans Canada, GNWT, Industry	
	Action Items	**Deliverable Date**
1	Develop a formatting template for submitting monitoring and compliance data.	September 2012 and On-going
2	Identify and develop a data storage strategy.	December 2012
3	Standardize sampling protocols, including quality assurance and quality control.	April 2013
Key to Success 1.2 D	**Share monitoring and research program findings with water partners and the public.**	
	Lead Agency: INAC Partners: GNWT, Fisheries and Oceans Canada, Environment Canada, Industry, Regulatory Boards	
	Action Items	**Deliverable Date**
1	Identify existing monitoring and research reporting mechanisms of all water partners.	December 2011
2	Provide training on NWT Discovery Portal use and access protocols.	April 2012
3	Begin to share information on monitoring and research programs using the NWT Discovery Portal.	April 2013
4	Water partners populate the NWT Discovery Portal with all monitoring and research program findings.	April 2014 and On-going
Key to Success 1.2 E	**Prepare and update, regularly, a comprehensive inventory of water use information, on a watershed basis.**	
	Lead Agency: INAC/ENR Partners: All Water Partners	
	Action Items	**Deliverable Date**
1	Regularly update water use inventory and distribute to water partners.	April 2012 and Annually
2	Develop or adapt existing informatics infrastructure as necessary to systematically collect and store water use data by watershed.	April 2014 and Annually

Key to Success 1.2 F	**Implement data collection, data sharing and data exchange protocols and tools to ensure effective and efficient data sharing among water partners.**	
	Lead Agency: ENR/INAC Partners: Other Federal departments, GNWT, Regulatory Boards, NWT Communities	
	Action Items	**Deliverable Date**
1	Identify all NWT water-related data sets that water partners hold.	April 2012
2	Prioritize data sharing needs amongst water partners.	September 2012
3	Develop and implement data collection, sharing and exchange protocols for specific data sets.	April 2013 and On-going
4	Improve public access to data using the NWT Discovery Portal and other identified approaches.	On-going
Key to Success 1.2 G	**Inventory all traditional knowledge protocols currently in place and developed by Aboriginal governments, communities and regions.**	
	Lead Agency: Aboriginal Steering Committee Partners: Aboriginal Governments, NWT Communities, Regulatory Boards, INAC, ENR	
	Action Items	**Deliverable Date**
1	Collect all available traditional knowledge protocols and share among water partners.	September 2011
Key to Success 1.2 H	**Develop and implement processes that promote use of traditional knowledge in ways that help ensure water stewardship activities that respect community values.**	
	Lead Agency: Aboriginal Steering Committee Partners: Aboriginal Governments, NWT Communities, Regulatory Boards, INAC, ENR	
	Action Items	**Deliverable Date**
1	Support the implementation of traditional knowledge protocols.	On-going
2	Include traditional knowledge in partner planning activities and decision-making processes.	On-going
3	Engage with Aboriginal governments and communities to identify ways that traditional knowledge can be used in water stewardship activities.	April 2012

1.3 Work Together – Communication and Engagement

Good communication and engagement is necessary for building effective relationships among water stewardship partners and the public. Ongoing promotion is required to keep the public informed and aware of water stewardship activities.

Key to Success 1.3 A	**Develop an approach to effectively maintain communications amongst water partners on the progress of implementing the NWT Water Stewardship Strategy.**	
	Lead Agency: ENR/INAC Partners: All Water Partners	
	Action Items	**Deliverable Date**
1	Identify water partners and maintain membership in the partners' communication working group and Aboriginal Steering Committee.	On-going
2	Develop communications protocols for action item leads.	April 2012
3	Develop and implement a framework and mechanism for communicating with all water partners.	April 2012
4	Report on progress at regular intervals.	April 2012 and Bi-annually
Key to Success 1.3 B	**Develop an approach to communicate effectively with interested organizations and the public on the progress of implementing the NWT Water Stewardship Strategy.**	
	Lead Agency: INAC/ENR Partners: All Water Partners	
	Action Items	**Deliverable Date**
1	Coordinate and develop activities to celebrate Canada Water Week and World Water Day.	April 2011 and Annually
2	Identify existing communication tools and modify as needed.	September 2011 and On-going
3	Develop and maintain a dedicated NWT Water Stewardship web site.	September 2011 and On-going
4	Develop and implement public education and information plans, particularly targeting NWT youth.	April 2012
5	Support NWT water conferences to provide updates on water research and monitoring activities and Strategy implementation.	April 2012 and Annually
6	Publish regular reports on programs and implementation activities.	September 2012 and Annually

Key to Success 1.3 C	**Develop a process for community organizations and individuals to collaborate routinely and effectively towards collectively achieving the vision of Water Stewardship in the NWT for the benefit of many.**	
	Lead Agency: INAC/ENR Partners: Aboriginal Governments, Other Federal Departments	
	Action Items	**Deliverable Date**
1	Engage and collaborate with Aboriginal governments, NWT communities and the public on the implementation of the Strategy.	On-going
2	Broaden the scope of water partners and their contributions, through public participation.	On-going
3	Collect and evaluate feedback to improve water stewardship actions.	On-going
4	Increase or strengthen opportunities to work together for water partners.	On-going

1.4 Work Together – Transboundary Discussions, Agreements and Obligations

Successful transboundary discussions, agreements and obligations with upstream jurisdictions help ensure the waters of the NWT remain clean, abundant and productive for all time. Mackenzie River Basin jurisdictions agreed to a transboundary negotiations schedule that starts with the Slave River. Aboriginal governments will be involved in transboundary negotiations.

Key to Success 1.4 A	**Negotiate transboundary water agreements with Alberta and other upstream Mackenzie River Basin jurisdictions.**	
	Lead Agency: GNWT/INAC Partners: Aboriginal Governments, Other Federal Departments	
	Action Items	**Deliverable Date**
1	Identify commitments and obligations in legislation and agreements related to transboundary waters.	September 2011 and On-going
2	Collect and share all Slave River background information in support of negotiations and develop a common report for all relevant jurisdictions.	September 2011 and On-going
3	Determine transboundary negotiating team and support processes, including Aboriginal participation and engagement.	September 2011
4	Develop NWT interests, mandates and options to inform transboundary negotiations in partnership with Aboriginal governments.	December 2011
5	Sign transboundary agreement with Alberta for the Slave River.	December 2012
6	Advance bilateral agreements with all Mackenzie River Basin jurisdictions for the Hay, Liard and Peel River transboundary waters (repeat steps 1-5).	December 2011 and On-going
7	Provide updates on transboundary discussions, negotiations, obligations and implementations of agreements to NWT partners and the public.	On-going

2. Know and Plan

Actions support the development and implementation of collaborative research and monitoring programs. The incorporation of traditional, local and western scientific knowledge in these programs improves the collective understanding of health and diversity in the NWT.

In order to Know and Plan, work falls under two main areas:

- Aquatic Ecosystems, Water Quality and Quantity
- Community-based Monitoring

2.1 Know and Plan – Aquatic Ecosystems, Water Quality and Quantity

Considerable research and monitoring efforts is needed to more fully understand aquatic ecosystems, water quality and quantity in the NWT. Knowledge gaps must be identified to set priorities for filling those gaps. Development of consistent research and monitoring protocols and water valuation/ecosystems services methodologies can assist in monitoring and mitigating impacts and cumulative effects on NWT waters.

Key to Success 2.1 A	**Undertake a review of existing aquatic monitoring programs, practices and research activities in the NWT, and identify and prioritize gaps.**	
	Lead Agency: ENR/INAC Partners: Fisheries and Oceans Canada, Environment Canada, Regulatory Boards, Industry, Academia	
	Action Items	**Deliverable Date**
1	Identify existing monitoring programs and research activities in the NWT and compile into a report.	December 2011 and On-going
2	Review current monitoring and research activities for adequacy and identify and compile information gaps.	September 2012 and On-going
3	Collaborate with water partners to prioritize gaps with regard to goals of the Strategy.	April 2013 and On-going
4	Develop or improve existing monitoring and research activities to address identified gaps.	December 2014
Key to Success 2.1 B	**Review factors that could impact aquatic ecosystem health to determine the priority in program delivery.**	
	Lead Agency: ENR/INAC Partners: All Water Partners	
	Action Items	**Deliverable Date**
1	Identify factors that could impact aquatic ecosystem health in the NWT.	April 2012
2	Conduct risk assessment in relation to these factors and identify priorities.	April 2013
3	Assess adequacy of current monitoring and research to address potential impact of above factors.	September 2013
4	Expand and adjust program delivery according to identified priorities.	April 2014 and On-going

Key to Success 2.1 C	**Determine consistent approaches to undertake research and monitoring to increase our understanding of the aquatic ecosystem, including transboundary watersheds.**	
	Lead Agency: ENR/INAC Partners: Regulatory Boards, Aboriginal Governments, Other Federal Departments, Academia	
	Action Items	**Deliverable Date**
1	Review existing research and monitoring protocols and assess the need for adaptation.	April 2012
2	Ensure existing NWT research and monitoring protocols, including traditional knowledge protocols, are available and used by all water partners.	April 2013
3	Develop new or adapt existing research and monitoring protocols.	April 2014 and On-going
Key to Success 2.1 D	**Develop and implement collaborative ecosystem-based research and monitoring programs.**	
	Lead Agency: ENR/INAC Partners: Regulatory Boards, Fisheries and Oceans Canada, Environment Canada, Academia, Aboriginal Governments	
	Action Items	**Deliverable Date**
1	Develop potential collaborative ecosystem-based research and monitoring programs, ensuring that traditional knowledge can be fully considered.	April 2012 and Annually
2	Develop collaborative partnerships that can enhance ecosystem-based water stewardship in the NWT.	April 2012 and Annually
3	Select potential aquatic ecosystem health indicators, following the completion of a discussion paper and a community and experts workshop.	September 2012
4	Assess and set aquatic ecosystem health indicators and thresholds.	April 2015
5	Identify the sensitivity of northern aquatic species to toxins produced by industrial activities.	April 2015
Key to Success 2.1 E	**Working with knowledgeable partners, assess current strategies and develop a NWT relevant approach in valuation of water and ecosystem services.**	
	Lead Agency: ENR Partners: All Water Partners	
	Action Items	**Deliverable Date**
1	Identify partners with expertise in determining water and ecosystem service valuation approaches.	September 2013
2	Involve Aboriginal governments and other NWT water partners in developing water and ecosystem service valuation approaches.	April 2014
3	Develop an NWT tailored approach to water and ecosystem service valuation.	April 2015

Key to Success 2.1 F	**Review existing water quality and quantity monitoring information (surface and groundwater), and identify capacity requirements to fill the gaps.**	
	Lead Agency: INAC Partners: All Water Partners	
	Action Items	**Deliverable Date**
1	Complete literature review of existing monitoring programs and activities.	December 2011
2	Complete gap analysis of water quality and quantity monitoring capacity.	September 2012
3	Prioritize water quality and quantity monitoring capacity needs.	April 2013
Key to Success 2.1 G	**Develop and implement collaborative research and monitoring programs for water quality and quantity that integrate with existing programs.**	
	Lead Agency: ENR/INAC/Regulatory Boards Partners: All Water Partners	
	Action Items	**Deliverable Date**
1	Identify potential collaborative water quality and quantity research and monitoring programs.	April 2012 and On-going
2	Develop collaborative partnerships that can enhance water quality and quantity research and monitoring programs.	April 2013 and On-going
3	Identify and implement methods to improve analytical capabilities for Surveillance Network Programs and other water-related monitoring programs.	April 2015
Key to Success 2.1 H	**Enhance, where needed, the existing water quality and quantity monitoring network (surface and groundwater) in the NWT.**	
	Lead Agency: INAC Partners: Environment Canada, Aboriginal Governments, ENR	
	Action Items	**Deliverable Date**
1	Complete detailed needs analysis regarding site locations.	September 2012
2	Establish monitoring agreements with interested agencies.	April 2013 and On-going
3	Implement monitoring agreements.	September 2013 and On-going
4	Evaluate effectiveness of the monitoring network.	December 2014 and On-going

Key to Success 2.1 I	**Develop and implement collaborative research and monitoring programs for environmental stressors that can contribute to cumulative effects on NWT watersheds.**	
	Lead Agency: ENR/INAC Partners: All Water Partners	
	Action Items	**Deliverable Date**
1	Assess existing programs that identify factors contributing to cumulative effects.	September 2012
2	Assess adequacy of existing monitoring and research programs, including protocols, reporting and data management.	April 2013
3	Implement cumulative effects research and monitoring programs.	September 2013 and On-going
4	Evaluate effectiveness of the research and monitoring programs.	April 2014 and On-going

2.2 Know and Plan – Community-based Monitoring

Community-based monitoring fosters a wide range of innovations, including increased awareness of water stewardship issues, improved traditional knowledge collection and application as well as increased, direct community involvement in research and monitoring program design. Opportunities for community-based research and monitoring programs are being explored and pilot projects funded, including transboundary watersheds.

Key to Success 2.2 A	**Explore, develop and implement opportunities for community-based research and monitoring programs.**	
	Lead Agency: ENR/INAC Partners: All Water Partners	
	Action Items	**Deliverable Date**
1	Determine which communities wish to participate in community-based monitoring.	September 2012
2	Support the communities in identifying priorities that will inform program design, including workshops.	April 2012
3	Identify and solicit funding resources for capacity building and program implementation.	September 2012
4	Implement community-based research and monitoring programs.	April 2013 and On-going

Key to Success 2.2 B	**Work with partners on community source water protection.**	
	Lead Agency: ENR Partners: NWT Communities, Aboriginal Governments, INAC	
	Action Items	**Deliverable Date**
1	Assess options and develop a model for source water protection planning in consideration of the needs of all NWT communities.	September 2011
2	Undertake community engagement to support source water protection planning.	September 2012
3	Update community watershed maps and distribute to all communities.	September 2012
4	Identify and develop capacity and support the implementation.	September 2013

3. Use Responsibly

Actions support sound water stewardship through the development and implementation of programs, practices and guidance for environmental assessment, regulatory and enforcement processes.

In order to Use Responsibility, work falls into three main areas

- Policy, Procedures and Protocols
- Evaluate and Amend Existing Legislation
- Compliance

3.1 Use Responsibly – Policy, Procedures and Protocols

An overarching protocol for developing, reviewing and implementing specific water-related policies, procedures and guidelines is needed to ensure consistency and strengthen water stewardship in the NWT.

Key to Success 3.1 A	**Develop or update policy, procedures and protocols in a consistent, transparent manner that enhances NWT water stewardship actions and decisions.**	
	Lead Agency: ENR/INAC Partners: Other Federal Governments, Aboriginal Governments, Regulatory Boards	
	Action Items	**Deliverable Date**
1	Research approaches to address water stewardship issues, seeking expertise from others nationally and globally.	April 2012
2	Modify or develop policy, procedures and protocols to ensure transparent decisions are made.	September 2013 and On-going
3	Implement policy, procedures and protocols.	On-going
4	Evaluate policy, procedures and protocols.	On-going
Key to Success 3.1 B	**Develop an overarching protocol for developing, reviewing and implementing water-related regulatory procedures and guidelines.**	
	Lead Agency: Regulatory Boards Partners: Aboriginal Governments, Other Federal Departments, GNWT, Industry, Academia	
	Action Items	**Deliverable Date**
1	Regularly update NWT mine site reclamation guidelines collaboratively with water partners.	September 2011 and On-going
2	Determine effective procedures for ensuring that the Water and Effluent Quality Management Policy and supporting guidelines are implemented as intended.	April 2012
3	Develop guidelines (e.g., for setting Effluent Quality Criteria) to support the Policy.	April 2013
4	Regularly update Aquatic Effects Monitoring Program guidelines collaboratively with water partners.	April 2013 and On-going

Key to Success 3.1 C	**Implement the Canada-wide Strategy (CWS) for Municipal Waste Water Effluent (MWWE) in the NWT.**	
	Lead Agency: GNWT/Environment Canada/INAC Partners: Regulatory Boards, NWT Communities	
	Action Items	**Deliverable Date**
1	Develop and implement a work plan for the CWS for MWWE, guided by outcomes and advice of the CWS for MWWE Northern Working Group.	April 2012
2	Analyze existing information and address gaps through more research and monitoring for implementing the CWS for MWWE.	April 2013
3	Engage communities, governments, agencies and others to develop a viable approach to implementing the CWS for MWWE, increasing the awareness of MWWE management in the NWT.	September 2013
4	Develop appropriate northern performance standards and effluent discharge objectives based on risk to human health and the environment.	April 2014
5	Work with relevant agencies to apply standards and guidelines, including progress reports.	On-going

3.2 Use Responsibly – Evaluate and Amend Existing Legislation

Routinely evaluate current legislation and amend as required to ensure NWT water stewardship is improved.
Review existing legislation to identify gaps and ensure outcomes are consistent with water stewardship goals.

Key to Success 3.2 A	**Evaluate and amend legislation in a consistent, transparent manner that enhances NWT water stewardship actions and decisions.**	
	Lead Agency: INAC Partners: Other Federal Departments, Aboriginal Governments, Regulatory Boards, ENR	
	Action Items	**Deliverable Date**
1	Evaluate federal legislation which can affect water stewardship actions and decisions.	April 2012 and On-going
2	Amend legislation, as necessary, to enhance water stewardship actions and decisions.	On-going
3	Continue to identify and engage in opportunities intended to improve NWT water stewardship.	On-going

3.3 Use Responsibly – Compliance

Work with NWT communities to build capacity to ensure a community water license is in place and that communities comply with the terms and conditions of their water license.

Key to Success 3.3 A	**Engage communities and other water partners to identify issues relating to water license applications and compliance and work to address these issues.**	
	Lead Agency: GNWT /INAC Partners: NWT Communities, Regulatory Boards	
	Action Items	**Deliverable Date**
1	Communicate benefits for communities to comply with municipal water licences.	December 2011 and On-going
2	Identify needs, such as training and support, that would enable communities to apply for, or comply with, their community water licence.	December 2012
3	Based on type(s) of facilities, develop and implement a community plan to address the issues identified by the community.	April 2013 and On-going
4	Develop communications or other promotional materials to increase industry recognition of community limitations and industry responsibilities on matters that could impact community facilities; for example, use of municipal infrastructure for waste disposal.	December 2012 and On-going

4. Check Our Progress

Check Our Progress is an active feed-back loop to ensure that water stewardship initiatives undertaken are working and that there is progress towards the vision of the Strategy. The evaluation criteria for Check Our Progress must be objective, accountable and directly linked to desired outcomes.

In order to Check Our Progress, work falls into two main areas:

- Routine Checks
- Formal Audits

4.1 Check Our Progress – Routine Checks

Develop and implement regular reviews of the NWT Water Stewardship Strategy and the Action Plan to ensure progress is being made and to adjust actions as necessary.

Key to Success 4.1 A	**Assess implementation progress of the Action Plan through annual reviews amongst partners.**	
	Lead Agency: ENR/INAC Partners: All Water Partners	
	Action Items	**Deliverable Date**
1	Form a progress assessment team.	September 2011
2	Develop an evaluation framework to measure progress and program success.	April 2012
3	Report progress based on identified success measurement criteria.	September 2012 and Annually

4.2 Check Our Progress – Formal Audits

Undertake formal audits to determine progress, identify emerging challenges and actions required to deal with new challenges.

Key to Success 4.2 A	**Conduct a comprehensive audit of the NWT Water Stewardship Strategy every five years.**	
	Lead Agency: ENR/INAC Partners: All Water Partners	
	Action Items	**Deliverable Date**
1	Form an audit team.	April 2012
2	Develop formal audit process and criteria.	April 2013
3	Develop an independent audit structure.	April 2014
4	Complete the audit with support from the audit team and water partners.	April 2015
5	Publish audit results and distribute findings.	September 2015 and every 5 years
6	Use audit results to develop subsequent water Action Plans.	Beyond 2015

More information on the NWT Water Stewardship Strategy and Action Plan
can be found at www.enr.gov.nt.ca

Canada

May 2011